



The President's Daily Brief

2 June 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 June 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The North Vietnamese have been infiltrating troops into northern South Vietnam at a moderately heavy rate for several weeks. *(Page 2)*

By abolishing the Greek monarchy, Papadopoulos has bought himself some time to deal with his more restive colleagues. *(Page 3)*

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CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh is making some initial preparations for possible dealings with Sihanouk and the Khmer Communists.

In a bid to improve the atmosphere for negotiations, the government on May 30 released some 30 political prisoners held since the bombing attempt on Lon Nol's residence last March. Most of those released are members of the royal family, including several of Sihanouk's close relatives.

[redacted] the High Political Council plans to release several hundred political prisoners, including some arrested in the wake of Sihanouk's ouster in 1970.

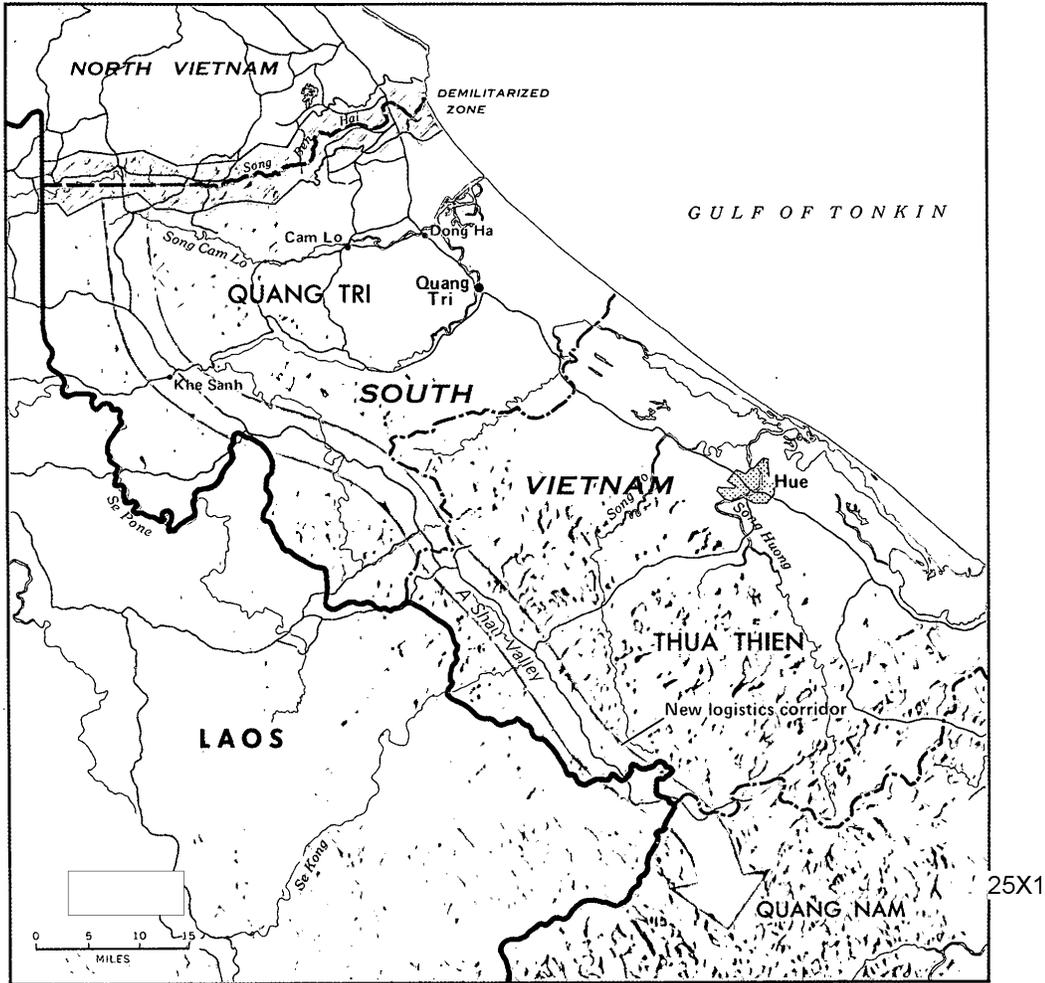
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[redacted] In the past week, Sihanouk and several of his "ministers" have reiterated that the fighting in Cambodia will continue and that there will never be any negotiations with the "traitorous clique" in Phnom Penh. Although he asserts that Cambodians must solve their own problems, Sihanouk continues to express willingness to negotiate directly with the US.

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VIETNAM

Troop infiltration to northern South Vietnam has continued at a moderately heavy rate for several weeks. Nine groups, totaling approximately 5,000 men, have been detected moving south through the North Vietnamese panhandle toward this area since May 12. Their identification numbers suggest that an additional five groups, involving about 2,500 troops, moved through the pipeline unobserved between January and early May.

The troops probably are destined for Thua Thien Province. The Communists have built a massive supply depot in the A Chau Valley and are constructing a new logistics corridor through the western part of the province. Hanoi may have concluded that its forces were inadequate to protect this area from a South Vietnamese incursion. The fresh troops also will enhance the Communists' ability to attack government positions in the sector.

No troops have been noted moving through the infiltration pipeline toward other areas of South Vietnam since March.

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GREECE

In his broadcast yesterday abolishing the monarchy and declaring himself provisional president, Papadopoulos also:

- promised to publish within a month the necessary draft amendments to the 1968 constitution,
- pledged to hold a plebiscite on the amendments within two months,
- said he would then set up machinery for a more thorough constitutional revision, and
- promised to conduct general elections by the end of 1974.

Papadopoulos' decree has bought him time to deal with some of his more restive colleagues. Key army leaders were united in their opposition to King Constantine, and are certain to back his ending of the monarchy.

The decree is nevertheless irrelevant to the major problems with which the government has been wrestling. Some of Papadopoulos' colleagues have been sharply critical of his performance. In the long run, he may well find himself in trouble again because of dissatisfaction over his government's inefficiency, ineptness, and corruption.

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NOTES

Laos: France will send 39 officers to Laos this month as the first contingent to augment its 70-man military assistance mission.

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During a visit to Paris in February 1972, Prime Minister Souvanna proposed that the French considerably increase the number of their advisers to help offset the withdrawal of US personnel as a part of the Lao peace agreement. The Geneva Accords of 1954, which are still in effect, provide for a maximum of 1,500 French military advisers for Laos.

USSR-Cuba:

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